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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A lock assembly comprising:
a housing which defines an axis, said housing including a retainer engagement feature
extending from said housing and a housing retainer groove;
a core assembly receivable within said housing along said axis; and
a retainer engageable with said housing retainer groove at an angle not perpendicular to
said axis to initially pass over said retainer engagement feature extending
from ~~the~~ said housing during insertion of the retainer into the housing
retainer groove and said core assembly transverse said axis to retain said
core assembly within said housing.
2. (ORIGINAL) The lock assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said core
assembly, includes a flange that is at least partially received within a frontal portion of said
housing.
3. (ORIGINAL) The lock assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said housing
comprises a groove generally parallel to said axis and said core assembly comprises a core
assembly extension receivable within said groove to prevent rotation of said core assembly
relative said housing.
4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lock assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein
said housing retainer groove is transverse said axis to receive said retainer.
5. (ORIGINAL) The lock assembly as recited in claim 4, wherein said core
assembly defines a core assembly retainer groove transverse said axis to receive said retainer.

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6. (ORIGINAL) The lock assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said retainer is generally U-shaped.

7. (ORIGINAL) The lock assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said retainer comprises a first leg, a second leg and a bridge portion between said first leg and said second leg.

8. (ORIGINAL) The lock assembly as recited in claim 7, further comprising an aperture located through said bridge portion.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lock assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein said housing comprises a retainer engagement feature engageable with said aperture to retain said retainer within said housing.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lock assembly as recited in claim 9, wherein said retainer engagement feature comprises an angled detent.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A front-loading lock assembly comprising:
a housing which defines an axis, said housing including a retainer engagement feature extending from said housing;
a core assembly receivable within said housing along said axis, said core assembly comprising a flange which engages said housing to locate said core assembly at a predetermined distance along said axis; and
a retainer engageable with said housing and said core assembly to retain said core assembly within said housing, said retainer receivable with a housing retainer groove at an angle not perpendicular to said axis to initially pass over a said retainer engagement feature during insertion of the retainer into the housing retainer groove and a core assembly retainer groove transverse said axis.

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12. (ORIGINAL) The front loading lock assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein said retainer is generally U-shaped.

13. (ORIGINAL) The front loading lock assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein said retainer comprises a first leg, a second leg and a bridge portion between said first leg and said second leg.

14. (ORIGINAL) The front loading lock assembly as recited in claim 13, further comprising an aperture located through said bridge portion.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The front loading lock assembly as recited in claim 14, wherein said housing comprises a retainer engagement feature engageable with said aperture to retain said retainer within said housing.

16. (ORIGINAL) The front loading lock assembly as recited in claim 15, wherein said retainer engagement feature comprises an angled detent.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of mounting a core assembly within a housing of a lock assembly comprising the steps of:

- (a) inserting the core assembly within a bore in the housing along an axis;
- (b) aligning a housing retainer groove and a core assembly retainer groove;
- (c) inserting a retainer into the housing retainer groove at an angle not perpendicular to said axis to initially pass over a retainer engagement feature extending from the housing during insertion of the retainer into the housing retainer groove and the core assembly retainer groove transverse the axis; and
- (d) selectively securing the retainer to the housing.

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18. (ORIGINAL) A method as recited in claim 17, wherein said step (d) further comprises:

19. (ORIGINAL) A method as recited in claim 17, wherein said step (d) further comprises:

biasing an engagement detent extending from the housing at least partially through an aperture in the retainer.

20. (ORIGINAL) A method as recited in claim 17, wherein said step (a) further comprises:

inserting the core assembly through a front face in the housing.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A lock assembly comprising:

a housing which defines an axis, said housing including a retainer engagement feature;

a core assembly receivable within said housing along said axis; and

a retainer engageable with said housing and said core assembly transverse said axis to retain said core assembly within said housing, said retainer includes a first leg, a second leg and a bridge portion between said first leg and said second leg, said bridge portion including an aperture engageable with said retainer engagement feature to retain said retainer within said housing.

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22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A front-loading lock assembly comprising:
a housing which defines an axis, said housing including a retainer engagement feature;
a core assembly receivable within said housing along said axis, said core assembly comprising a flange which engages said housing to locate said core assembly at a predetermined distance along said axis; and

a U-shaped retainer engageable with said housing and said core assembly to retain said core assembly within said housing, said retainer receivable with a housing retainer groove and a core assembly retainer groove transverse said axis, said retainer includes a first leg, a second leg and a bridge portion between said first leg and said second leg, said bridge portion including an aperture engageable with said retainer engagement feature to retain said retainer within said housing.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of mounting a core assembly within a housing of a lock assembly comprising the steps of:

- (a) inserting the core assembly within a bore in the housing along an axis;
- (b) aligning a housing retainer groove and a core assembly retainer groove;
- (c) inserting a retainer into the housing retainer groove such that a portion of the retainer initially passes over a retainer engagement feature extending from the housing and the core assembly retainer groove transverse the axis; and
- (d) selectively securing the retainer to the housing by aligning an aperture through the retainer with a the retainer engagement feature extending from the housing.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of mounting a core assembly within a housing of a lock assembly comprising the steps of:

- (a) inserting the core assembly within a bore in the housing along an axis;
- (b) aligning a housing retainer groove and a core assembly retainer groove;
- (c) inserting a retainer into the housing retainer groove and the core assembly retainer groove transverse the axis; and

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(d) selectively securing the retainer to the housing by biasing an engagement detent extending from the housing at least partially through an aperture in the retainer.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lock assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said retainer comprises a first leg, a second leg and a bridge portion between said first leg and said second leg, each leg includes a bevel at an end thereof.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The front loading lock assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein said retainer comprises a first leg, a second leg and a bridge portion between said first leg and said second leg, each leg includes a bevel at an end thereof.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as recited in claim 17, wherein said step (c) further comprises:
reducing the angle as the retainer is inserted into the housing retainer groove.

28. (NEW) The lock assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said retainer engagement feature extending from said housing extends parallel to said axis.

29. (NEW) The front-loading lock assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein said retainer engagement feature extending from said housing extends parallel to said axis.

30. (NEW) The lock assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said retainer engagement feature extending from said housing is wedge shaped.

31. (NEW) The front-loading lock assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein said retainer engagement feature extending from said housing is wedge shaped.

32. (NEW) The lock assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said retainer is a rigid planar member.

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33. (NEW) The front-loading lock assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein said retainer is a rigid planar member.